

News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio*

For Release:

William J. Edwards
Acting United States Attorney

Justin J. Roberts
Assistant U.S. Attorney
216-622-3958

William J. Edwards, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, today announced that an Indictment was filed charging Harold M. Jones with 26 counts of Mail Fraud, 22 counts of Health Care Fraud and 6 counts of Aggravated Identity Theft.

Jones, age 45, resides in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

The Indictment charges that Harold M. Jones, a doctor of podiatry licensed to practice in the State of Ohio, devised a scheme to defraud Medicare and Medicaid by using improper billing codes, billing for services not rendered, and billing under a false provider number. From in or about December 1999, through in or about May 2006, Jones caused numerous false and fraudulent claims to be submitted. The Indictment further charges that, for the purposes of executing the foregoing scheme, Jones caused checks to be mailed to him in payment for podiatry services for beneficiaries of federal health care programs and in response to the false and fraudulent claims he submitted.

The Indictment also states that Jones, without lawful authority, possessed and used a means of identification of another person, including the name and Medicare Provider number, to submit false claims for reimbursement.

If convicted, the defendant's sentence will be determined by the Court after review of

factors unique to this case, including the defendants prior criminal record, if any, the defendants role in the offense and the characteristics of the violation. In all cases the sentence will not exceed the statutory maximum and in most cases it will be less than the maximum.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin J. Roberts, following investigation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Cleveland.

An Indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#####